

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

MCT-01 /061 W

-----162036Z 067818 /50

R 161755Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2825

INFO AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL NAPLES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: KEY ARRESTS STRENGTHEN GOVERNMENT RESOLVE AGAINST VIOLENCE

1. SUMMARY. TWO KEY ARRESTS IN AS MANY DAYS HAVE PROVIDED
DRAMATIC EVIDENCE OF APPARENT LINK BETWEEN ORGANIZED CRIME AND
VIOLENT POLITICAL EXTREMISTS. THE ARRESTS WERE MUCH-NEEDED
DEMONSTRATIONS OF GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS IN FACE OF CRIME WAVE,
AND SEEM TO HAVE STRENGTHENED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (DC) RESOLVE
TO PUSH FOR NEW LEGISLATION THAT WILL AID WAR ON CRIME. END SUMMARY.

2. ON FEBRUARY 13, ROMAN POLICE CAPTURED PIERLUIGI CONCUTELLI,
THE SUSPECTED ASSASSIN OF ROMAN JUDGE VITTORIO OCCORSIO. EVIDENCE
FOUND IN CONCUTELLI'S HIDEOUT CLEARLY LINKED HIM WITH THE BANNED
NEO-FASCIST ORGANIZATION ORDINE NUOVE, AND CONCUTELLI WAS QUICK TO
DECLARE HIMSELF A "POLITICAL PRISONER." THE MOST STARTLING
DISCOVERY IN THE HIDEOUT, HOWEVER, WAS A BUNDLE OF BANKNOTES WHICH
WERE QUICKLY IDENTIFIED AS HAVING BEEN PART OF THE RANSOM RECENTLY
GIVEN FOR THE RELEASE OF A KIDNAPPED MILANESE GIRL.

3. THE NEXT DAY, FEBRUARY 14, AN IMPRESSIVE FORCE OF CARABINIERI

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CLOSED IN ON RENATO VALLANZASCA, THE ALMOST LEGENDARY BANDIT WHO
WAS THE KIDNAPPER OF THE MILANESE GIRL. WHEN CAPTURED, VALLANZASCA
BORE UNTREATED BULLET WOUNDS, PRESUMABLY SUFFERED IN A SHOOT-OUT
WITH POLICE LAST WEEK NEAR BERGAMO. IN THAT INCIDENT, TWO
POLICEMEN WERE KILLED. VALLANZASCA DENIED KNOWING CONCUTELLI,
AND WHEN A REPORTED ASKED HIM IF HE, LIKE CONCUTELLI, CONSIDERED
HIMSELF A POLITICAL PRISONER, VALLANZASCA REPLIED THAT SUCH TALK

WAS NONSENSE.

4. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS ON FEBRUARY 14, IMPORTANT DC PARLIAMENTARIANS AND GOVERNMENT FIGURES STRESSED THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PRACTICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE TWO ARRESTS. THE SOURCES SAID THAT PM ANDREOTTI AND HIS GOVERNMENT WERE RESOLVED TO USE THE SUCCESSES TO MOVE QUICKLY FOR NEW AUTHORITY TO COMBAT VIOLENCE. SPECIFIC MEASURES ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE AREAS OF GUN CONTROL, POLICE REFORM AND AUTHORITY TO CLOSE DOWN THE HIDING PLACES FOR BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT EXTREMISTS. THE PROPOSALS ARE PRESENTLY THE SUBJECT OF INTER-MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS, AND WILL BE CONSIDERED FURTHER AT THE FEBRUARY 17 DC DIRECTORATE MEETING. THE NEW MEASURES MAY BE OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED AS EARLY AS AT THE FEBRUARY 18 CABINET MEETING.

5. THE OUTLOOK FOR PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL OF NEW GOVERNMENT POWERS IN THE PUBLIC ORDER FIELD IS PERHAPS A LITTLE BRIGHTER NOW THAN IT HAS BEEN IN RECENT MONTHS. UP TO NOW, THE COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST PARTIES HAVE SHARED AN INDISPOSITION TO GRANT THE GOVERNMENT WIDER POLICE POWERS, AND HAVE CALLED FOR BETTER ENFORCEMENT OF EXISTING LAWS. NOW, THE COMMUNISTS SHOW SIGNS OF ALARM OVER HAVING BEEN THE TARGET FOR MUCH OF THE RECENT UNIVERSITY VIOLENCE. ONE PCI SPOKESMAN PRONOUNCED HIMSELF IN FAVOR OF CLOSING ALL THE TERRORIST HIDEOUTS, "EVEN THE NON-FASCIST ONES," AND ADMITTED THAT THE DEMANDS OF THE EFFECTIVE POLICE WORK REQUIRED THE USE OF PLAINCLOTHES AGENTS, LONG A COMMUNIST TARGET. A SOCIALIST LEADER AGREED THAT THE HIDEOUTS WHERE VIOLENT ACTS ARE PREPARED SHOULD BE CLOSED, BUT STRESSED THAT ANY NEW GRANT OF POWER TO THE POLICE MUST NOT BE MISUSED TO CLOSE CENTERS OF NON-VIOLENT EXTREMIST DISSENT.

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BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 16-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Errors: N/A
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